

DALE FARM HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Secretary
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Ms Dawn French
Manager
Development & Health
Basildon District Council
Basildon Centre
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6 August 2010

JOINT HOUSING APPLICATION: EQUALITY LAW

Dear Dawn,

I am writing to inform you that Mrs Kathleen McCarthy (5 Camilla Drive) has asked me to raise a number of points with you:

1 She is seeking a response to her earlier request that you re-visit your decision not consider her Joint Housing Application, which was made for the purpose of maintaining the integrity of the Traveller and Catholic community for whom Mrs McCarthy is a leading spokesperson, as you are aware.

2 Taken together with your present plan to forcefully evict Gypsies and Travellers from Dale Farm and Hovefields, Mrs McCarthy feels that a very serious and unnecessary blow is being dealt to the integrity of her community both by your refusal to discuss the JHA and by the deliberate destruction of Traveller-own properties at Hovefields before any Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken.

3 Aware that you have not yet produced the required Equality Impact Assessment in respect of your present forced eviction policy, Mrs McCarthy requests to be included in any further engagement talks so as to have an opportunity to put across to you the community's point of view.

4 She notes that no-one at Dale Farm was invited to the last meeting, which took place in Chelmsford on 3 August.

5 The concerns over the need to maintain the integrity of the Traveller and Catholic communities are to be discussed with Father Daniel Mason, of Our Lady of Good Counsel, next Thursday (12 August), so a reply by the date would be useful.

Yours sincerely

Grattan Puxon
secretary DFHA